

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different lifestyles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However, we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Blessings to our outgoing and incoming Vestry Members.

John and Edyth Ledbetter in celebration of their wedding anniversary on January 28.

Dick & Janie Williams in honor of our granddaughter Hattie Jane Dooley on her first birthday,
January 25.

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Ministers: Margaret Meyers (CW) & Candice Gale (CJ)

Lectors: Carol Foote & Christina Soria

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: Stacey Bagnasco (CW)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Andee Zetterbaum

Sound: Stephanie Pilcher

Altar Guild: Bunmi Olowoyeye & Jim Reeve

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski /Stacey Bagnasco

Designer Guild: Ejae Perry & Mandi Sager

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Janie Williams

Coffee Hour: Potluck

Counters: Eric Goossens & TBA

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

A Winter Pastoral

by Franklin Ritter

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Entrance Hymn *(Standing)*

O for a thousand tongues to sing

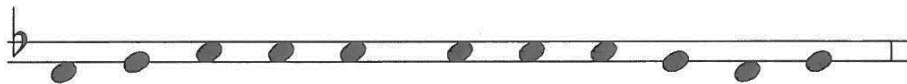
Hymnal 493

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Opening Acclamation

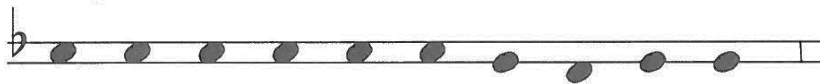
EOW1

Celebrant



Bless-ed be the one, ho - ly and liv - ing God.

People



Glo - ry to God for ev - er and ev - er.

Collect for Purity *(Celebrant continues)*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise *(Celebrant & people)*

God is Love (vs. 1&2)

Hymnal 379

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah

Carol Foote

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

(Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19

Carol Foote

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Christina Soria

A Reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an

eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31a)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Help us, O Lord to Learn

Hymnal 628

A Reading from the Holy Gospel Luke

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:14-21)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

Deacon Tom Hampson

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Form III

Margaret Meyers

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surranted by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession

EOW

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God. (*stand or knee as able.*)

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Peace is exchanged.

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings *All together,*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

The spacious firmament on high
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Hymnal 409

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Celebrant and People)

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John the Baptist our patron, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.



The Lord's Prayer

(traditional)

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

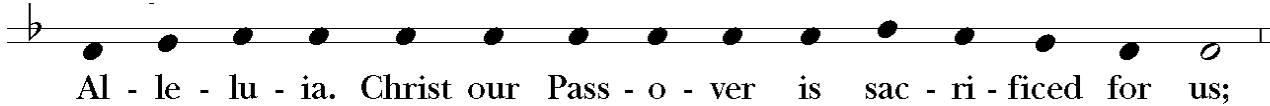
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

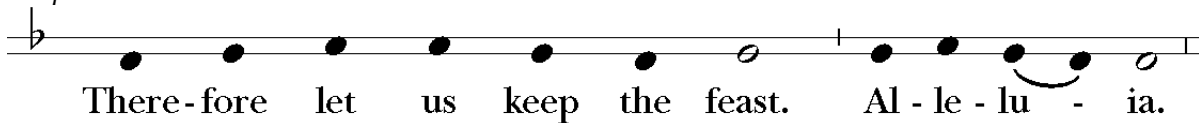
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

Celebrant



People

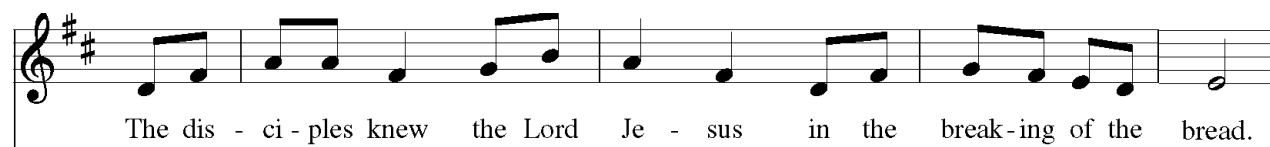


Fraction Hymn

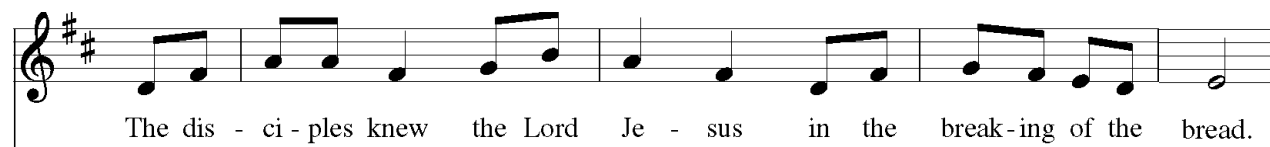
The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

WLP 877

Choir/Cantor



Refrain- All Sing



Choir/Cantor

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Refrain - All Sing

Choir/Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All Sing



Celebrant continues,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music

My god, thy table now is spread

Hymnal 321

Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post communion Prayer *(standing)*

EOW

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hymnal 616

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in the peace of the word made flesh.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Trio on Azmon

arranged by David Lasky

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You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website: www.stjohnsofodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at: [the "App Store"](#) or ["Google Play"](#) Or scan this code:



Upcoming Calendar

Sunday, January 26 - Annual Meeting following coffee hour

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:30 am, Annual Meeting, Church Nave

1:30 pm, New Vestry Information Meeting, Hospitality Room

January 27 - 30: Rev. Betsy will attend the 2025 Forma Annual Conference via Zoom each day from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 28

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Wednesday, January 29

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historic Chapel

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, January 30

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom

Friday, January 31

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen Dinner, Church Narthex (Doors open at 5pm)

Sunday, February 2 - Candlemas

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Today - Annual Church Meeting - Sunday, January 26 - Following the Church Service. Our 2025 Budget will be presented and voted on. We will thank outgoing Vestry Members, volunteers and welcome the new Vestry Members and volunteers.

Join us every Wednesday at 12 Noon for Noon-Day Prayer in the Chapel.

Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 8:00 pm: Here's the link for the **Thursday, 8:00 PM, Compline service.** Topic: Compline Time: 8:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnNWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>
Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

Soul Kitchen Returns - Friday, January 31 at 5:30 pm - Please join us for this nutritious meal. We gather with friends from church and the community. This is the first of our last Friday of the month dinners that will take place January through October of 2025! See you there.

Labyrinth in the Historic Chapel - During the season of Epiphany, a labyrinth will be available for your use in the Historic Chapel. Walking a labyrinth is one of the oldest forms of contemplative prayer in which one weaves themselves inward toward the

center and then back out again. Descriptions and ideas for prayer when using it will be available. The labyrinth will be available on Sunday mornings and during office hours. Please see Penny, Rev. Betsy, or Dc. Tom for access to the chapel. Note: this labyrinth is on generous loan from St. Raphael's in Oakhurst. Please remove your shoes prior to walking on it.

Fun and easy ways to get involved! - I know you're thinking, I would like to help out at church but it needs to be easy and fit in my schedule. Think about doing one of the following items just ONCE a month or every other month...

Counter: Help count the collection plate and take a deposit to the bank. You will be buddied up with another person.

Sound Person: You will be trained.

Coffee Hour: Find a friend to buddy up with or Penny can help you find someone.

Camera Acolyte: You will be trained.

Usher: We will find a person to Usher with you. Easy and a fun way to say "Hi" to everyone.

Altar Guild: These ladies and gentlemen set the altar with everything needed for our Sunday Services. You will be trained and partnered.

Designers Guild: Ever wonder who puts together all the flowers and extra decorations in the church for each Sunday? You will be trained and buddied up with someone. No special skills required.

Eucharistic Ministers and Crucifer: These are the robed people who serve with Rev. Betsy and Dcn. Tom during the service. You will be trained. There are many more ways to help, just talk to Penny in the office if you are interested. You can email at stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net or call 209-369-3381 and leave a message.



Join us to shape the future of Downtown!

COMMUNITY
OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY

4th & 5th

(10 AM TO 7 PM)

(10 AM TO 6 PM)

22 South Main Street

PLEASE DROP BY ANY TIME TO LEARN MORE
& SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Also take the
**ONLINE
COMMUNITY
QUESTIONNAIRE**

<https://app.sli.do/event>

Join as a participant at
#Lodi or scan the QR code





SOUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Calling all chefs and lovers of soup! On Feb 9th St. John's Lodi will hold the first Souper Sunday. Not to be confused with that football game on the same day! This Souper fundraiser will help support church ministries and is a perfect way to build community through food. All are welcome to participate by making or buying soup.

Soup Makers:

- Sign up to provide soup between Jan 5 and Jan 26
- The sign-up sheet will be on the Ministry table along with quart containers
- On Feb 9, plan to donate 4-8 qts of soup in the containers provided (may be frozen or chilled)

Soup Buyers:

- Soups for sale will be posted on "Soup Sheets" in the hallway to the Hospitality Room
- Anyone can sign up to purchase a soup by putting your name on the Soup Sheet
- Soups are \$15 per quart to be picked up on Feb 9 at coffee hour
- Bring checks made out to St. John's or cash to pick up your soup on Feb 9

2024 Vestry Members

Margaret Meyers,
Senior Warden
Kelly Olds, Junior Warden;
Fran Bott, Clerk
Stacey Bagnasco
Beth Elwood
Bob Gorczyca
Charlene Martin
Christina Soria
Debby Weberski
Andee Zetterbaum

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Presents...



Saturday, February 22, 2025

12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

Tickets are \$20.00 per person which includes:

12:00 noon: Doors Open

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: Luncheon

**1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: 10 Bingo Games
2 Bingo Cards**